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HYGIENIC POCKET CONTAINER.

(57)

Pocket minicontainer, disposable and made of sheet material such as cardboard, aluminium, plastic or a mixture of said products, die-cut and scored for its bending and tridimensional conformation by the user, in various configurations, scored for its further folding and final closing after having introduced residues and waste and before it is deposited or thrown in a dustbin or appropriate container.

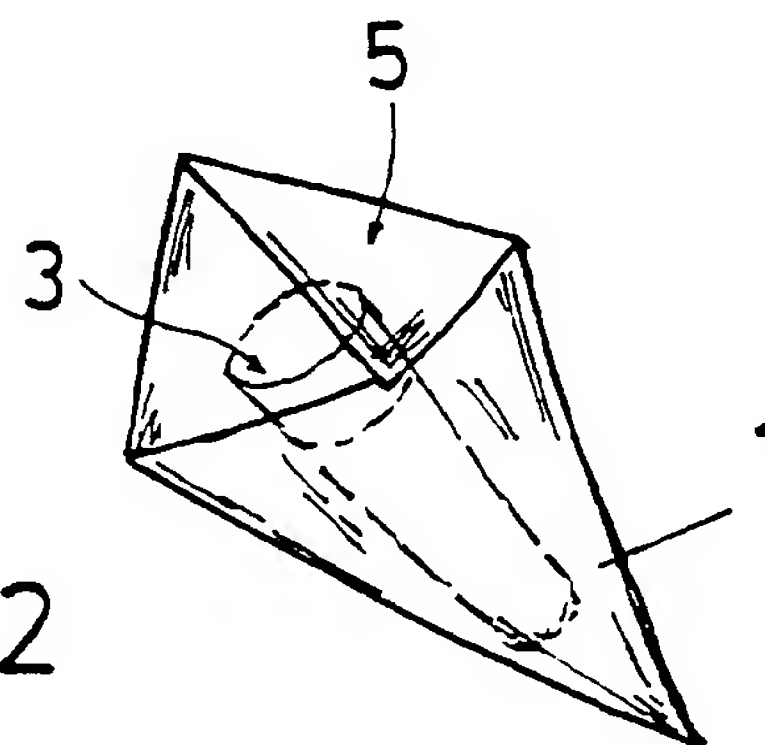


FIG. 2

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OBJECT OF THE INVENTION

This invention refers to a hygienic pocket container conceived as a small item which can be easily carried, either alone or as part of a group from where the different containers can be picked out and successively used, the aim of which is to house under certain circumstances small residues such as cigarette toppers, chewing gum, sunflower nutshells, etc. so that instead of throwing them away they can be stored in such container and kept inside the pocket until there is a waste container available or any other appropriate place for its final disposal is found.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Currently, small products basically derived from the food industry are broadly used. Such products entail a series of residues which in many cases are thrown away either in the street, in the beach, in the countryside or in any other place.

Almost everybody has had the uncomfortable experience of stepping on a chewing gum in the street or having to clean nutshells away from a seat. Such residues although small are very annoying and anti-hygienic.

Therefore, we are faced to a hygiene problem derived from a specific and individual consumption at any time and place on the part of the consumer and these products invariably entail residues or waste.

A specific, adequate and technical solution for such personal hygiene problems has not yet been found.

This problem has been faced from another point of view which is the joint use of the different solutions proposed up to now which are usually fixed and not very specifically designed for their intended use. Such solutions have materialized in different types and models of containers which although specialized in some way - as in the case of the wastepaper baskets - continue following a joint approach, require a specific size and endurance and have to be located at a specific physical place.

This traditional approach has determined that these solutions have a scarce or no mobility at all as in the case of wastepaper baskets located in the street or at the beach.

Up to this date no practical, hygienic or individual solution to this hygiene need/problem has been offered.

The public agencies have also tried to find a solution - with little success - through specific campaigns. The statutory bodies have also contributed to this aim by enacting rules to penalise those persons who throw such residues on the

street. However, the only technical alternative was to discourage their consumption on the part of the individuals or that such residues were kept by them until they could find a suitable place for the final disposal of such residues (with the implicit risk and inconvenience). Often such suitable place is far away from the consumer and, in turn, calls for a high degree of public spirit on the part of the citizens. As it has been proven such spirit does not exist in many cases and in some occasions is almost impossible to comply with such civic rules.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

This invention refers to a hygienic pocket container aimed on the one hand to store small remnants and residues from human consumption of products mainly derived from the food industry and, on the other hand, to pack and keep such residues, without any risks for the consumer, until they can be safely disposed of - including the container used - at the appropriate time and place. This makes it possible to keep the personal and public hygiene in an easier way and its use avoids the need to throw such residues away.

The solution proposed in this invention meets the above-mentioned personal hygiene problem and provided that it is broadly use such solution will have a positive effect on public health. On the other hand its design is aimed to encourage its use.

More specifically, the container is formed by a thin sheet of a material which can be easily folded (irrespective of its water tightness or fire proofing) suitable for the qualitative characteristics of the residues to which it is aimed.

The container is manufactured by processing such sheet and through the application of different designs, it materializes in different shapes such a star, a cone, an arrow and others which when unfolded offer a cavity, normally with an angular profile, suitable to contain such residues and with the adequate dimensions so that once it has been filled can be seal by folding the open end. In any case, the material of such cavity should offer the adequate plasticity to keep the above-mentioned closing position stable.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

To complement this description and in an effort to better understand the main characteristics of the invention, a set of drawings is attached to this descriptive report forming an integral part of it and where, as an illustration and without limitation, the following has been represented:

Figure 1 shows a perspective view of the hygienic pocket container manufactured in accor-

dance with this invention and in this case the shape of such container is a cone.

Figure 2 also shows a perspective view of the container described in the previous figure once a specific residue has been deposited inside it. In this case the residue is a cigarette top-
5 per. The container is duly closed and can be kept until its final disposal.

Figure 3 finally shows some of the multiple shapes of the container all of them based on a sheet duly folded and which takes the form of a star, a cone, an arrow, a boat and a paper bird.

PREFERRED EXECUTION OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with one of the preferred practical execution examples of the invention - the one shown in figures 1 and 2 - the hygienic pocket container is formed by a sheet (1) duly shaped to define a cone-shape cavity (2) made of a material which can be easily folded and with the adequate plasticity such as foil paper. The dimensions of such container enable to house a specific residue inside it such as a cigarette top-
15 per (3) and once such residue has been deposited inside the container is sealed (4) either by folding the areas or sectors (5) of the container itself close to the open end by rolling such end or in any other adequate manner thus configuring a sealed chamber where the cigarette top-
20 per is immediately extinguished and where it can be kept perfectly isolated and protected enabling to carry such container until a suitable place is found for its final disposal.

Obviously, the fact that having chosen foil paper as the material for this conic container (1) is because it is intended to be used for cigarette
25 toppers (3). In other cases, for instance to temporarily store chewing gum or nutshells residues, the material can be different - paper for instance - since it is no longer necessary to use an incom-
30 bustible material.

In any case, the container will be initially flat to achieve the minimum volume. Then it will be unfolded until it reaches the position shown in figure 1 so that the cavity (2) can be used and any eventual
35 residues can be deposited inside it.

As mentioned before, the container can be a single element or form part of a set of similar or different containers, duly folded inside a dispenser which can house a specific quantity.

As a result of the research carried out, some containers have been discarded since they met some technical requirements but not the adequate design characteristics to make them attractive and to ensure its broad acceptance and use on the part of the public which is an unavoidable quality to achieve a broad use of the invention. Those manu-
40 facturers whose products entail the generation of

remnants and residues can cooperate to spread the use of such containers by supplying them along with the relevant product since in some way they are responsible for the consequences derived from the use of their products. Such responsibility is shared with the consumer, and such responsibility is discharged in some way due to the lack of an adequate solution such as the one proposed by this invention which efficiently solves that problem.

Figure 3 shows a series of alternatives to the preferred practical execution example shown in figures 1 and 2. It can be noticed that all the execu-
10 tions shown in figure 3 are based on a sheet (1) made of any material suitable for its intended use such as paper, cardboard, plastic, foil paper, etc. that duly folded and shaped as shown in such figure 3 offers a sort of star-shaped table (6), a cone (7) structurally different from the one shown in figure 1, an arrow (8), a boat (9) or a paper bird (10). It is evident that all these shapes are mere examples and their number can be unlimited pro-
15 vided that the compulsory condition that they incorporate a cavity (2) where residues are deposited and which can be sealed to prevent the spillage of such residues until its final disposal is duly met.

Claims

1. A hygienic pocket container especially con-
25 ceived to house small remnants or residues such as cigarette toppers, chewing gum, etc., keeping them duly sealed until their final disposal, essentially characterized because it is formed by a sheet (1) made of any material suitable for the residue to be housed inside it and, for this purpose, either combustible or not and/or water tight or not. Such sheet once it has been duly folded presents a small receptacle (2) with the adequate dimensions to keep such residues. It has been foreseen that the material of such sheet (1) preferably offers an adequate plasticity to enable the sealing of the open end (4) of the receptacle (2) once the residue (3) has been deposited inside it, by simply folding the part of the container close to such open end (4).
2. A hygienic pocket container, according to claim 1, characterized because such sheet can determine different shapes such as a cone, a star, an arrow, a boat, a paper bird or any other shape adequate to any design provided that such ornamental element incorporates a cavity (2) with the appropriate dimensions to house the intended residue (3).
3. A hygienic pocket container, according to the previous claims, characterized because the ob-
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ject defined by it, either a cone (1), a star (6), a pyramid (7), an arrow (8), a boat (9), a paper bird (10) or any other shape is initially flat like a sheet of a minimum volume the cavity (2) of which is unfolded when the container is going to be used.

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- 4. A hygienic pocket container, according to the previous claims, characterized because the container (1) can be a single element or form part of a set of similar containers incorporating a dispenser.

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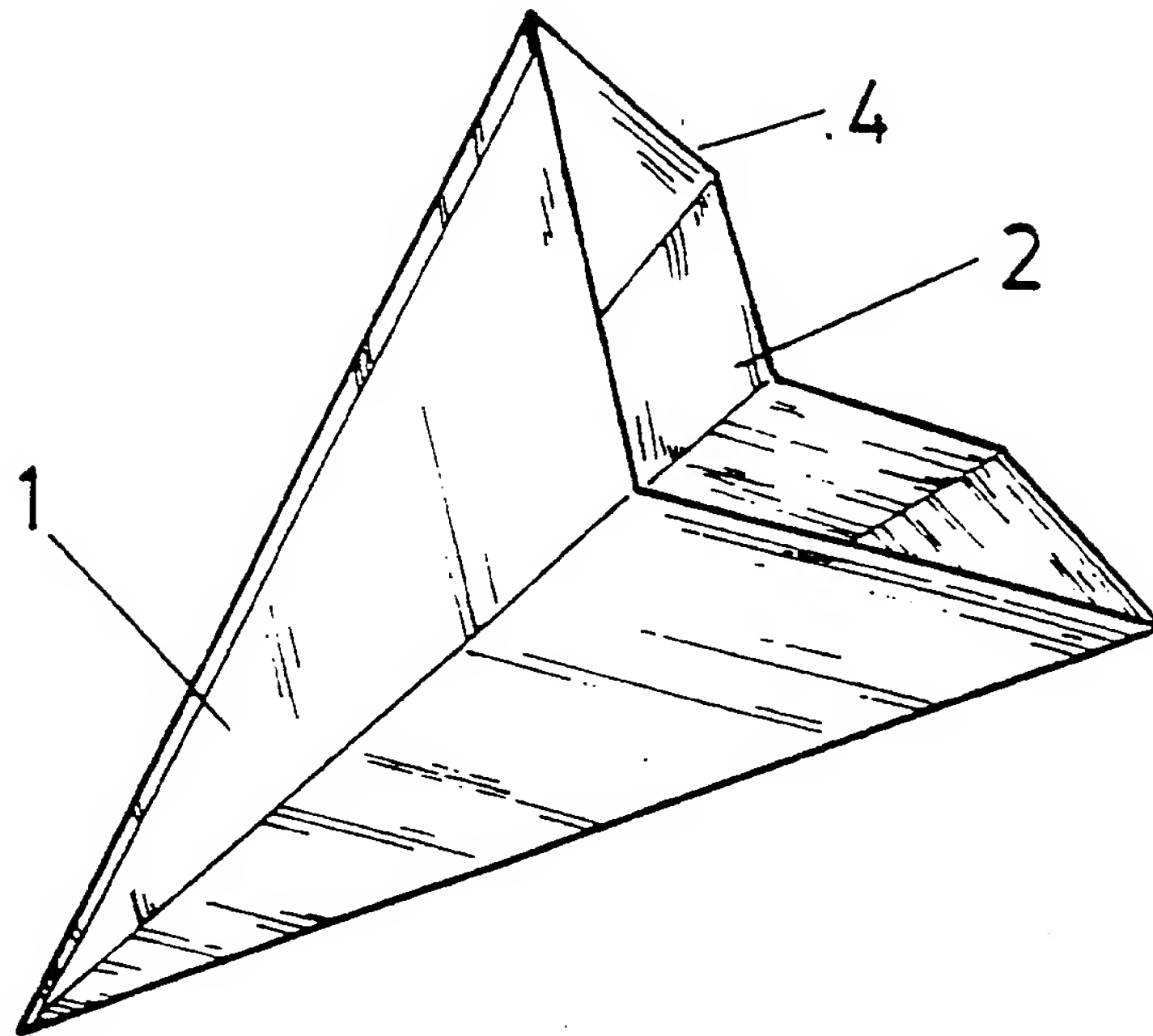


FIG. 1

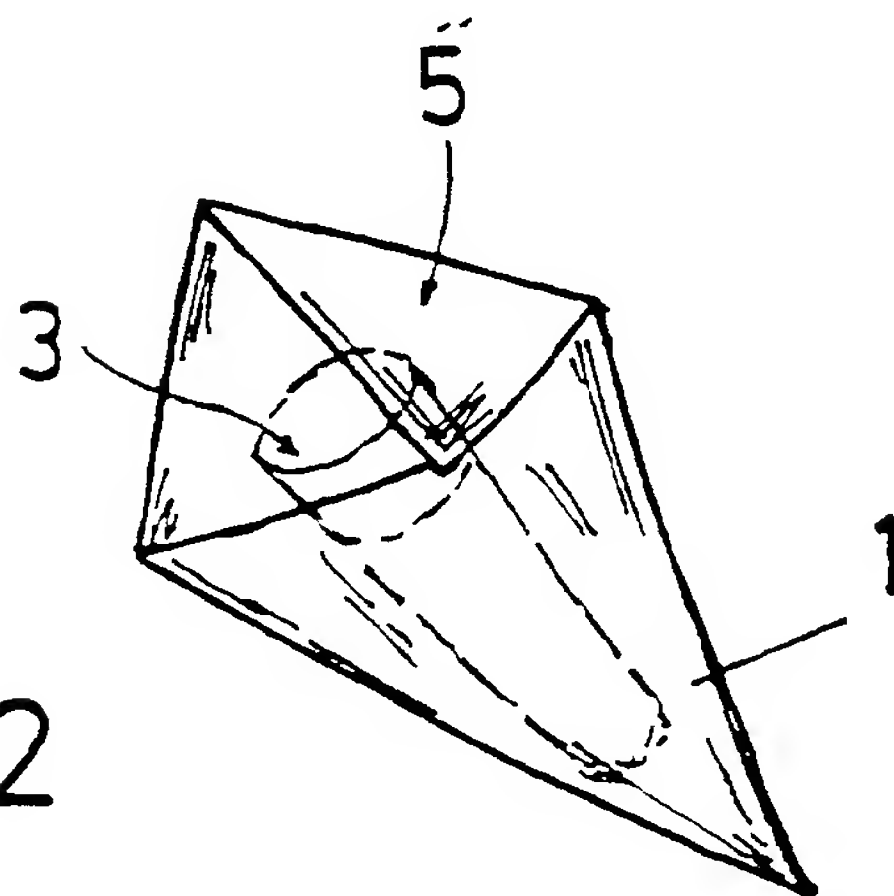


FIG. 2

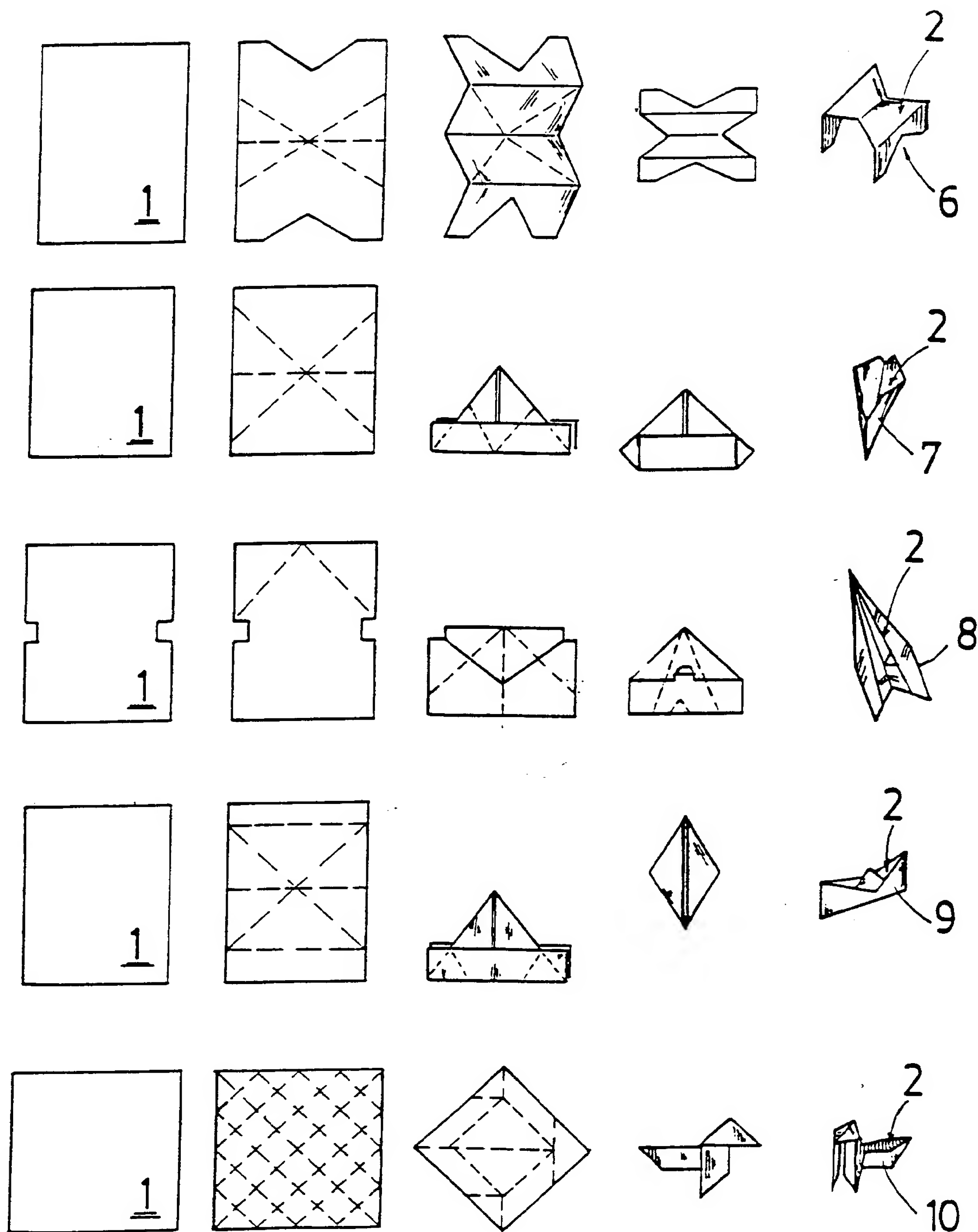


FIG. 3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/ES 93/00099

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 5 B65F1/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 5 B65F B65D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP,A,0 296 378 (BENAVENTE ET AL.) 28 December 1988 see column 1, line 25 - line 36 see column 6, line 4 - line 8 see figures 1,2,6 ---	1-4
X	DE,A,33 21 603 (BARKEY) 20 December 1984 see page 3 ---	1-4
X	DE,U,92 07 912 (FRICK) 29 October 1992 ---	1
X	FR,A,1 030 404 (GHEZZI) 12 June 1953 ---	1
X	GB,A,328 491 (HUMMER) 22 May 1930 ---	1
X	FR,A,403 441 (WAGNER) 4 November 1909 -----	1

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

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- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
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Date of the actual completion of the international search

11 April 1994

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